





## Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &amp; CO., LD.

D. C. &amp; Co.'s

## DISINFECTING FLUID.

Similar to Condy's at quarter the price.

Large bottles.....\$0.50  
Per gallon.....\$2.00

This is a safe and reliable disinfectant and is not poisonous.

NO better preventive against Plague and Disease is possible than a well disinfected house.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED,  
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,  
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 21st May, 1894.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

## DISINFECTANTS.

## CARBOLIC POWDER.

For the purification of Houses, Cess-pools, Drains, Water-closets, &amp;c., and for the Disinfection of Sick-rooms.

## CARBOLIC ACID.

For Disinfecting Purposes.

Half an ounce (about one table-spoonful) of this Acid when well mixed with one quart of water forms a superior disinfectant and deodorizing fluid.

Half a pint of the Solution thus formed, when added to any vessel used in the Sick-room, will prevent any unpleasant effluvia, and preserve the contents for Medical inspection. It also purifies Drains, Water-closets, &amp;c.

A tea-spoonful of Carbolic Acid exposed on a plate or other vessels in a Sick-room will purify the air and prevent contagion.

## PERMANGANATE DISINFECTANT.

Similar to Condy's but cheaper, 50 cents, a quart bottle.

A nice clean disinfectant for Dwelling-rooms and Bath-rooms.

## CAMPHYLENE POWDER.

## CAMPHYLENE BALLS.

## CAMPHYLENE BLOCKS.

## JEYES' POWDER.

## JEYES' FLUID.

## NAPHTHALINE.

## QUICKLIME.

## IZAL.

## CONDY'S FLUID.

## CONDY'S POWDER.

## SANITAS POWDER.

## SANITAS FLUID.

At the present time disinfectants ought to be used freely by all.

All disinfectants used on the higher levels of the city will, in addition to purifying the house drains in which they are used, beneficially affect the condition of the drains on the lower levels, and should be used freely.

Further information can be obtained by personal application to

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1894.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1894.

## PREVENTION CHEAPER THAN CURE.

So far the measures adopted by the authorities for the suppression of the epidemic vaguely known here as The Plague have been considered sufficiently effective, especially as they were supplemented by copious downpours of rain and exceptionally cool weather; yesterday's hospital returns, however, as well as those published in another column of this issue, prove otherwise. And now that it has been ascertained beyond doubt that the disease is not restricted to Asiatics alone but that Europeans also contract and develop it, it becomes the manifest duty of the Government to adopt measures still more drastic than any yet thought of, for this disease must be stamped out, and that immediately, at any cost. Thousands of dollars are being spent daily by the Government, but without any perceptible result; not even a tangible guarantee that the epidemic is being checked, and that it will not last through the present and every succeeding summer; the internal trade of the island is at a standstill; the whole business of the colony in short is being slowly but surely paralysed. These are indisputable facts which will have to be seriously faced and remedied, but in what direction and by what means can remedial be found? That is a query which the perplexed officials would doubtless give a deal to have answered for them, but it certainly can never be satisfactorily solved

by limiting in a common or garden fashion the fiddling act of Roman Nix; neither is it sufficient to send out squads of volunteering soldiers and civilians armed with disinfecting brooms and brushes, splendid though the services done by these men really are. The disease has been found to exist in hovels which have been cleared of their dwellers and thoroughly fumigated, but subsequent visits have revealed the astounding fact that they have been re-let to other lodgers who speedily developed the disease. Were these new-comers already impregnated with its germs before coming into these supposedly disinfected houses or did they catch and develop it in them? If the latter be the case of what use are all the disinfecting agencies in the world when applied to such foul dens? These surmises anyhow open the door for action on the part of the Government which, if decided on, will win for it the plaudits and support of every right-thinking man in the community. Sacrifices have to be made in such cases as these, then by all means let the persons primarily responsible for the introduction of this horrible disease be the first to bear them—the landlords. Last night's *Telegraph* contains a list of a few of them and some of the names which figure there should provide food for reflection in the minds of everyone who has the interests and welfare of this colony at heart. There are men on the list who pose as heaven-born philanthropists; as men to whom charity is ever sweet for its own sake and who never allowed their left-hands to weigh the bounties of their right! These are the people upon whose individual shoulders should fall the tax of stamping out the plague and likewise the cost of putting their houses in such sanitary order that human beings, even Chinese, might live in them without breeding a life contagion that threatens to poison and pollute the entire colony. The Government should without the loss of one day ascertain the house-owners of the whole Western locality and force upon them the duty of disinfecting their hovels and surrounding drains. Police officers could easily be detailed for supervising this work or at least by visiting the cribs ascertain whether or not it had been done. Then as the disease develops, should unhappily such be the case, and the sanitary search gangs unearth instances of plague in houses which have been disinfected, let them be at once condemned as being unfit for human habitation and destroyed, either by fire on the spot or by being pulled down and carted away. If these steps should prove of no avail, more drastic measures still will have to be resorted to. After two or three days' notice are given, so that provisions may be stored up, a cordon should be drawn round the entire infected district for ten days or a fortnight and, should the disease still gain ground, there is but one way left of saving Hongkong from possible bankruptcy and that is by putting a firestick in Tai-ping-shan and the other classic localities which are acting as plague-breeding beds and burn every house to the ground. This would be far the cheaper course to pursue if the plague is not speedily got under.

Another matter worthy of consideration is whether or not it would be well to temporarily prohibit the passenger traffic between Canton and Hongkong. The disease is raging in that city and its surrounding districts and so long as coolies are allowed to enter this port from those plague-stricken regions, even although in greatly reduced numbers, all the sanitary measures enforced here would be without avail. We would suggest to Governor Robinson the advisability of adopting a course of policy based on lines somewhat similar to those laid down here for trial at any rate. The authorities are in a quandary and if the trade of Hongkong is to be saved from ruin strong measures must be adopted.

## TELEGRAMS.

## LORD ROSEBURY'S GOVERNMENT.

Mr. James Bryce (late Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) succeeds Mr. Mendell as President of the Board of Trade.

## THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

A new French Ministry has been formed with M. Dupuy, President, Minister of the Interior and of Public Worship, M. Mercler, Minister of War, M. Poincaré, Minister of Marine, M. Guérin, Minister of Justice, M. Delcassé, Minister for the Colonies, and M. Hanotaux, (probably) Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE B.N.C. of contention—the jawbones which runs the *China Snail*.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Bombay* left Singapore for this port at 11 a.m. to-day.

THE British cruiser *Falgar*, Capt. Angus McLeod, was expected in Singapore from Borneo on the 24th inst.

WE note that Mr. August Hottelbach has accepted the vacant seat on the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements.

Kitto—Ah, dear fellow, where do you suppose I get my wardrobe?  
Bertha Blot—Borrowed it from different friends!

THE O. & C. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Gastly*, with mails, &c. left San Francisco for this port, via Honolulu and Yokohama, on the 29th inst.

A Chinese craftsman, who had the bad luck to be found out in counterfeiting Dutch dollars, was sent up for five years at the Singapore Assizes on May 21st.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s royal mail steamer *Empress of China* arrived at Hongkong at 5 a.m. to-day, and left again at 5 p.m. same day for this port, via Shanghai.

THE Bangkok Tramway Co., which has recently been the financial success originally anticipated, intends to increase its electric plant and proposes to raise the necessary funds by issuing debentures.

AN Emergency Convocation of St. Andrew's Chapter, No. 218, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting companions are cordially invited.

Cannibal King—How is it that the soup is so thin and watery to-day?  
Chief Cook—Sorry, your Highness, but there was nothing left over except the two Baptist missionaries from North-China.

IN the Supreme Court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Wille, the suit of Ng Sui against the veteran litigant Chai Chai for \$107 for work done was decided in favour of the plaintiff, with certain small deductions, but also with costs.

THE S. F. Commercial News says that the sands are still up about the wrecked whaleback steamer *Whitmore*, off Coss Bay, and it is believed that it will soon be possible to walk out to her and take out the machinery, valued at \$50,000.

Bertha Blot—Did English don't allow dogs to come to dine Clod?  
Miss Numb-fort—Not even little bits of one?  
Bertha Blot—No kind at all.  
Miss Numb-fort—Too bad! Did you have a hard time getting there?

AS the Government is waging war of extermination against caterpillars, and offering a reward of five cents per caterpillar for the capture of the same, English fruit growers in Cambridgeshire are up in arms also, paying men one penny each for every wasp killed in the months of March, April, and May. One man did a roaring trade, having killed no less than 352 in one day.

WHEN the Russian bridegroom is led into the bridal chamber, he is made to write out of bed to pull off his boots, which she does as a token of submission. In one of the boots is hidden a whip; in the other a trinket. If she draws off the latter first it is considered a good omen, but if, by bad luck she chance to pull the former first, she gets a stroke of the whip. Let us hope that on her wedding night, at least, it is a light stroke.

"The Bystander" writes in the *Graphic*:—  
"There is a terrible rumour abroad. The enormous and preposterous shoulders that girls have been wearing are of no inconsiderable weight, and this has brought about a development of the deltoid and neighbouring muscles; consequently a permanent set-shoulder supervenes, and the graceful, plumed, well-shaped shoulder of the English maiden is likely soon to disappear altogether."

HARMSTONE'S Circus has been giving away horses, gold watches, silver cups, and other valuable prizes to its patrons in Singapore. The Hon. Robert Love, general manager of this first-class show, desires it to be known that he is not dead and doesn't want to be just at present, and he is to "chit-chin" his numerous friends in Hongkong—the village of the "plucky owner in the middle, who was easily by six-figures, covering the two miles in the remarkable time of 4 min. 21 sec., which is a second and a fifth better than Driving Cloud's record performance to the Hongkong Exchange Place in 1883, with Mr. H. T. Allen up. Judging from the times made in the other events, we rather think that our countrymen up north are not far from making a mistake of at least ten seconds, and we are the more strongly impressed in this belief on noting that the time for the first mile is given as 2 min. 15 sec.

A MATCH at cricket was played at Shanghai on May 24th between teams representing respectively H.M.S. *Albatross* and the Shanghai Club. The Naval team was captained by Mr. C. Dr. Robert and the Shanghai team by Mr. Dr. Robert. The match was played on a level ground, the Shanghai team being the plucky owner in the middle, who was easily by six-figures, covering the two miles in the remarkable time of 4 min. 21 sec., which is a second and a fifth better than Driving Cloud's record performance to the Hongkong Exchange Place in 1883, with Mr. H. T. Allen up. Judging from the times made in the other events, we rather think that our countrymen up north are not far from making a mistake of at least ten seconds, and we are the more strongly impressed in this belief on noting that the time for the first mile is given as 2 min. 15 sec.

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SAVING THE *Rangoon Times*—The Reverend Julius Smith must feel proud that he has at last caught one Celestial and brought him within the fold of the Methodist Church. The Reverend Julius has only to catch three or four more players and then he will be entitled to be made a Doctor of Divinity, like another worthy Divine in Rangoon.

Is it true the Reverend Julius tried to start a tobacco plantation up-country and has failed? And what does the Methodist Church say to this new departure? Some years back the Reverend Mr. Robinson denounced from the Methodist pulpit the habit of tobacco smoking as a *giddy* sin. Now, if there were no tobacco growers, like the Rev. and Julius, there would be no tobacco-smokers. Hence, on whom does the filthy sin lie more?

THE S. John's (Newfoundland) *Daily News* contains the following remarkable story:—  
"The master of the schooner *Brilliant* some in this port, gave the following remarkable account of piracy at White Island, on the Nova Scotia coast, about 60 miles east of Halifax. It appears from a letter Captain Rowe has received from his wife, who lives only 18 miles from the scene of the tragedy, that a man named Barrigan, in order to decoy vessels ashore for the purpose of plunder, placed a light on a pile of rocks called *White Island*, as it was named, and by this means he was able to attract vessels into taking it for a light called *White Island*. Light, and thus cause their destruction. The schooner *Spencer F. Barron*, of Gloucester, Mass., is said to have mistaken this false light as intended, with the awful result that she went ashore on the boundary rock and became a total wreck, all hands being lost."

A SPECIAL meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon to consider new bye-laws proposed by the special permanent committee of the Board under sections 22 and 23 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1879, now in force by virtue of the Governor's proclamation of May 1st in connection with the previous bye-laws. Howland in the infected district may now be notified to have their buildings thoroughly cleaned, colour washed and disinfected; if they do not comply within forty-eight hours after notice, they are liable to a penalty of \$500, and the Board has the work. Mr. Howland urged that the Board should do the work at once without waiting for the houses to be notified, as the Board had the money and it could do so, and the occupiers should be compelled to do their duty. Whenever necessary the houses may be condemned and pulled down entirely, and the owner made liable for the damage of the tenant pending reconstruction, and for all sanitary consequent expenses. A Government *Sanitary Sub-committee* was formed this evening with the following members:

## SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CHARBONNAGES DU TONKIN.

The annual general meeting of shareholders in this company was held to-day, at the registered offices Victoria Buildings, Tonkin. The Hon. C. P. Chater, the Hon. J. J. Kewick, Mr. H. N. Mody (director), Mr. R. B. Joyce (secretary), Mr. A. Champin (auditor), and Messrs. D. R. Sanson, E. George, D. B. Tait, D. Nowidge, T. Sanson, M. Grote, N. Dorabjee, S. Keston, H. E. R. Hunter, G. H. Potts, S. S. Benjamin, J. M. G. Manuk, F. Jordan, S. S. Hooper, H. Hooper, F. T. Rose, J. Y. V. Verdon, M. S. S. Sanson, J. S. Ezekiel, J. S. Moyer, A. G. Morris, and S. C. Michaelson.

On the motion of Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Mody, Mr. Chater took the chair.

The Secretary read the notice of meeting.

In accordance with French law and the articles of association, the Chairman laid on the table a copy of the newspaper advertisement calling the meeting, a copy of the articles, and the reports of the director-general and auditor. He also declared that the shareholders present represented 4,000 shares, 2,100,000 francs capital, and 173 votes. The two largest holders of shares present, Mr. Bavier-Chauffour (represented by Mr. Grot) and Mr. Mody, were appointed scrutineers to verify the statement. The meeting was then declared duly opened.

The Secretary read the managing director's report, which was as follows:—

Gentlemen,—"We have the honour of submitting to your approval the accounts of 1893, which include the modifications made in those of 1892, which you voted at our last general meeting. If the results of this year are not quite such as we might have hoped for, this does not in any way relate to the actual value of our enterprise, which continues to be excellent from every point of view, but solely to the unfavourable conditions which we are for the present placed as regards the market for coal."

In pursuance of the resolution passed on this occasion by which your Board was invited with full powers to conclude a negotiation of this nature, our Director General left for France where he is now actually in treaty with groups of financiers in order to bring about the realization of our project. The news which you will now have reached us enables us to form favourable anticipations for the success of our negotiations, the success of which will make the commencement of a period of prosperity which will yearly increase, keeping pace with the development of the resources of our mines.

Meanwhile our operations continue within the limits which we have assigned them, for the present, which consist in conforming the needs of the present to the demands of the future—that is to say, our actual output is designedly strictly limited on a basis to allow us to meet our expenses, even though we might easily increase it, while at the same time we do not lose sight of the preparatory work, which will result in a great development of the output.

It is not to our interest, indeed, to push this output until we have at once insured the means of transport by an increase in our plant, and an easy and remunerative disposal of it by the extension of our railway system. As soon as a definite result has been arrived at of the financial arrangements, for which we are actually in treaty, there will be no further obstacle to the free development of our works, and we shall then be in a position to give our output all the amplitude it demands, and the conditions of its working are such that the only limits to be assigned to it are those laid down by the consumption which, itself, by the variety and extent of its sphere, offers a vast field for our activity.

During this period, while we find facilities for disposing of our output at Hongkong, we continue, in view of its development, to try constantly to attract others a little everywhere, from San Francisco on the one side to Bombay on the other, with highly encouraging results. Thus, even at the risk of repetition, we think we can assure that the future of our enterprise shows most favourably, and that before long the hopes we so justly formed, and so patiently waited for, will have found the realization they merit.

As to the past, all our efforts shall be directed to reach this end, which, moreover, we may look for in the near future, and which will, finally, justify the confidence which we all have placed in our vast enterprise.

At the request of the Auditor, his report was read by the Secretary as follows:—  
"The accounts of the company, which are the subject of the present report, are the result of the work of the year 1893, which is now presented to you as a summary of the operations of the year. The account 'Exploratory and Preliminary Works' is, in fact, increased by 1893, and the account 'Plant and Machinery' has been increased by a sum of \$26,554.78, arising from the carrying to it of the accounts Screening and Hydraulic Plant, which was wrongly entered in the preceding balance sheet under the account of Property; there were, further, some purchases of plant, such as the *Wet Trolley*, which represent about \$11,000. You will see on the other hand that the account 'General Expenses' has been decreased. The Profit and Loss account shows a debit balance this year of \$94,828.17, but it would be well to remark that the company owes a sum of \$100,550 which is due to the Protectorate for its advance, which has to be repaid in coal, not in cash. Be good enough also to remark that your stocks of coal at Hongkong and Hongkong, which stood last year at \$70,807.78, this year reach the sum of \$73,745.79. I have seen the accounts, which are in conformity with the books, and I therefore ask you, gentlemen, to be kind enough to approve and adopt the report which is submitted to you."

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, I must in the first place apologise to you for the postponement of this meeting, which I fear must have caused some of you inconvenience. The cause was that after we had advertised it for the 24th, we received a telegram from Hongkong to say that our auditor, Mr. Champin, could not arrive with the necessary accounts before the 31st and so we had no other choice but postpone the meeting until to-day. I last addressed you at our extraordinary meeting of the 22nd and December, (which I gave you a summary of the work that had been done during the year, to which there is not very much to be supplemented. You have in your hands the balance sheet and the report of the Board of Directors, which show you our position pretty plainly, and I do not think that I need add very much to what is given in them. The operations at the mines are progressing actively, and the new plant we have got out of the ground is now being put in service. During 1893 we have had in Hongkong

Canton and elsewhere some 74,000 tons of coal of which very nearly all came from the Hanoi mine. As I told you at our last meeting, we have been concentrating our efforts on this point, and I am glad to say that the reports from the engineer in charge of that division are highly satisfactory. The over burden of earth and the coal are being removed in their proper proportion, and I am glad to be able to tell you that there is a marked improvement in the quality of the coal coming from the south division. Up till now nearly all the bad coal we got came from the north quarry, but now Mr. Brossard says that the coal from the south one, which until a few weeks ago had been, though pure and brilliant, exceedingly friable, is getting much harder, and he has been able to send us quite a quantity of good hard coal from this mine, and, as he goes further in, no doubt the quality will improve. For the purpose of removing the overburden of earth, we have put up a steam engine, which is expected to be in working order very soon, and which will go a long way to saving us the cost of manual labour. While at present we are getting nearly all our coal from Hanoi we are not neglecting Nagatna, where we are pushing on with the important work there, the Kestner shaft. In March of this year the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 150 metres, and had cut the Chater and Bavier-Chauffour seams, and will later cut the third, the Marmottan seam. It was necessary, therefore, this shaft should be filled with masonry, to keep out the water and prevent the earth falling in, which has caused it to take longer in coming to completion than it otherwise would have done, but by the very next trip of the *Riversdale* we are going to send down the last 50 casks of cement that are necessary for this purpose. At a depth of 80 metres, cross-roads have been made on the Chater and Bavier-Chauffour seams, which will penetrate to yet another seam, the Sainte-Barbe. I might mention that of these seams Mr. Brossard, the engineer in charge, reports that the Bavier is 4.55 metres in thickness without a single layer of schist, and the Chater 4.40 metres. All preparations are being made for the extraction of coal, and for the ventilation of the shaft, &c., so that I hope by the autumn it will be in full work, and producing coal of a really high class quality. Our plans being kept in an efficient state, and our various workshops are doing good work. Since the departure for Europe of Mr. Bavier-Chauffour the management of the affairs at the mines has been in the hands of Mr. Delpon, and the company may, I am sure, congratulate itself on having secured the services of this gentleman. Indeed all our staff in Tonkin has done excellent work, during the period under review. As for the disposal of the coal exported, the lump coal, as has always been the case, goes off very readily, and we could dispose of a far larger quantity than we receive. I trust too that I may say that our great difficulty, that of the disposal of our dust coal, has at length been solved. The trouble with this quality of our coal has always been that it requires a forced draught to make it give its full value as a heating agent, and that, being non-caking, it falls through the bars of the ordinary type. I am pleased to be able to inform you that a simple method has been discovered to obviate these disadvantages, and everything seems to point to a largely increased sale of this quality. On this method improvements have since been made to suit the requirements of the various furnaces on which this quality of coal is used, with results that have been found to be most excellent. Our increased output, which we are now able to dispose of, is now being used in the boilers of the *Dock Co.* and I have much pleasure in informing you that the Secretary of that Company has been kind enough to forward me particulars, which show you that the economy of our dust over high-priced Japanese is 51 per cent. Certain boilers of the China Sugar Refinery have also been fitted for this purpose, and are doing well, and I trust that in a short time we shall be able to use it on ships successfully. We have also approached some of the large mill-owners in Bombay, with a view to their becoming customers for this quality of our fuel, and a first shipment of 100 tons has already been made to that port. The method, and its modifications, are simple and inexpensive, and can very easily be substituted for the ordinary firebricks, so that everything seems to point to a large consumption of our dust, with which no other coal in the market can compare in price. As regards our present contracts, that for dust coal to Hongkong and Canton is nearly completed, and by our agreement we cannot make another for a month or two, but I may tell you that there are people willing to make one when the time prescribed has elapsed. In face of the results obtained with the methods of which I have spoken for burning our dust coal, your Directors are inclined to head off the monopoly of sales in Hongkong to anyone, though they may think it advisable to do so for Canton, where circumstances are different. Another way of disposing of our dust coal is by making it into briquettes, and, as you know, our factory at Kowloon has been working for some time. Unfortunately the cost of manufacture has increased, owing to the low exchange, and the consequent high price of pitch. We are seeking to overcome this difficulty by obtaining this material from sources nearer to us, and I have good hopes that we shall be able to solve this question also in a satisfactory manner. The quality of this product was most conclusively proved the other day in Tonkin by a commission of French naval officers, as you may have seen in the news papers, the result being equal, or even superior, to those turned out by the best known factories in Europe. As a fuel for any purpose they cannot be surpassed, and when we have settled the question of a cheap supply of pitch, I anticipate a great future for them. As I have told you before, the disposal of the dust coal has always been our difficulty, but I think I may now say that as far as the quantity of production goes, and its adaptability when used with these methods of which I have spoken, we may look forward with confidence to a time when this quality of our fuel will be eagerly sought after in the markets of the East.

At our extraordinary meeting in December we asked you to pass certain resolutions, the object of which was to facilitate the task of your Directors in getting more funds, and I told you that Mr. Bavier-Chauffour was then on his way to Paris for this very purpose. We have been in constant communication with him ever since, and though nothing has yet been definitely settled, yet he seems to be very near a satisfactory conclusion of his negotiations. Only yesterday we had a telegram from him saying that they were proceeding most satisfactorily, and that he hoped that in a very short time they would be closed. We have had every reason to hope that it will not be long before his mission proves successful, and the company will be in possession of sufficient funds to release it from its existing obligations, and to enable it to extend its operations to supply the requirements of the steadily increasing demand for its fuel. (Applause.) In conclusion I shall be glad to answer any questions before proposing the adoption of the report.

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. Hoppert seconded the motion, which was carried *unanimously*.

On the motion of Mr. Grot, seconded by Mr. Michaelson, the meeting adjourned (Applause).

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On the motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Moyer, Mr. Champin was re-elected auditor.

The Chairman:—Gentlemen, I am all the business before the meeting. I thank you for your presence here to-day, and hope that at our next meeting we shall be able to show much better results. (Applause.)

## THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

In our issue of the 28th instant it was stated that "in view of the enormous task and the vast accumulation of reeking filth which it will be necessary to remove before the evil-smelling infected districts are even partially cleansed, it appears imperative that the strength of the corps should be greatly increased, and whole rows of dug tenements in East Street, Market Street, Sul Hang Lane and Poying Lane be thoroughly swept, scraped, whitewashed and disinfected, and that all the 'death-box' rookeries in those streets should be destroyed and the partitions, floors and reeking bedding found therein be burnt." At present the disinfecting process is carried on only in houses where plague-stricken patients have been removed, and the consequence is that fresh cases are often discovered in houses close to those in which the emergency men have performed their arduous and most unpleasant task. The Government now have reason, right and duty to make a clean sweep of hundreds of insanitary and pestiferous hovels or cocklofts in the infected districts, and why there should be any reluctance to effect such a manifestly necessary change for the better, looking not only to the stamping out of the plague but also to future contingencies, would seem to be inconceivable. Some explanation, more especially in view of the fact that upwards of a thousand able-bodied men could be procured from the Garrison for this work at short notice."

And there is now more reason than ever for the allegations then published, for it is beyond question that the Emergency Corps are numerically too weak to tackle and stamp out the fatal disease which is creating such lamentable havoc among the Chinese, and now seriously threatens the health not only of the Canton but of the whole European community as well. The house-to-house searches are following not sparingly with the plague, and as far as the efforts of the energetic and hard working "Whitewash Brigade" are concerned, it is manifest that more infected dwellings are discovered daily than they can possibly cleanse. The savagery of the plague having become alarming and the sentimental effect upon the trade of the port being incalculable, at the present juncture there can be no doubt that the adoption of the suppression of this loathsome disease has to be looked at from every point of view, and that at once, to permit of drastic repressive measures being promptly adopted. Too much has hitherto been taken for granted; now guess-work must be abolished for hard and stern facts are before us, and the exigencies of the hour will brook no delay in the adoption of a new and sweeping change in the Government's "plan of campaign."

The fire is an insidious and dangerous one and can alone be defeated by superior and overwhelming force—which we fortunately have at our command. What the inevitable chance of front will be it is not easy to foretell at present, but it is quite possible that it may be deemed necessary to draw a cordon round the worst districts for three or four days, utterly demolish a large number of houses in those districts, and in the interval carry out house-to-house visitations on a more extensive scale than has hitherto been possible with the limited number of emergency men at the disposal of the sanitary authorities. Some such drastic measures would seem imperative if the plague is to be stamped out this side of the Autumn solstice, and people are constantly being moved from one part of the town to another by their relatives and friends to evade the vigilance of the house-to-house searches, thus spreading the disease and rendering the Emergency Corps mere followers of the unwelcome visitor and not, as it was hoped they would be, its defectors.

It is noteworthy that since the port was solidly decreedly infected over a fortnight ago, the wealthy property in some of the worst slums of Hongkong have moved rather handsomely, neither have they put their hands into their well-filled pockets to improve the highly insanitary condition of their filthy, albeit very valuable properties. Some of them, however, unquestionably were accessories, if not the actual instigators, to the offensive protests to the Government against the repressive measures now in force, and to them chiefly is due the "credit" of having caused the plague-stricken countrymen to be consigned to the fever market of the managers of the Glass Works hospital (save the mark). Instead of letting the unfortunate creatures be cared for in a thoroughly civilized manner on board the *Hygeia* and to the Kennedy-town branch of the Government Civil Hospital, The Glass Works hospital is now overcrowded, and seeing the great and increasing mortality among the hapless patients in that filthy disease-decked building, it is not surprising that the cause of common humanity alone, if for no other reason, that the Government should step in and limit upon at least half the cases reported daily being treated by its own medical officers. Military and Naval medical men are, we understand, quite ready and willing to give their services gratis to the Government if they are required, and the time would certainly appear to have arrived when their valuable aid should be fully availed of.

Yesterday afternoon two privates of the Shropshire Light Infantry, employed in the cleansing operations, were removed to the *Hygeia* suffering from the plague, making three privates, members of the "Whitewash Brigade," rendered *hors de combat* by this fatal disease, while two of their comrades are now under surveillance owing to their having developed some of the primary symptoms of the plague. Private Lockley, referred to in our last issue, is getting on as well as can be expected.

Several cases of plague have been reported from Kowloon city, which has a number of Chinese residents of the city of Victoria. As soon as the house-to-house visitations commence, it is not surprising that the cause of common humanity alone, if for no other reason, that the Government should step in and limit upon at least half the cases reported daily being treated by its own medical officers. Military and Naval medical men are, we understand, quite ready and willing to give their services gratis to the Government if they are required, and the time would certainly appear to have arrived when their valuable aid should be fully availed of.







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